

dez; for, we may consider as nothing, the arbitrary denominations and phrases which have nothing scientific about them but their name, since they tend rather to impede the science of nature than to accelerate it.

Though this bird has often been compared to the Indian cock and the pheasant, though it even has some traits of similarity with both of them, yet it differs from both in some very remarkable peculiarities. It must, however be confessed, that to the eye of a careless observer it would appear more like an Indian cock than a pheasant; it is of the same size, has the same walk; it resembles it also by its native stupidity, and by its great inclination to a domestic state. Hence, I was surprised that Aublet, who, like myself, has had opportunities of examining this bird in its native clime, should have considered it as a pheasant, when, on the contrary, it approaches so much more nearly to the Indian cock.

The hocco differs from the pheasant by its size, by the fleshy membrane which surrounds the base of the beak, by its singular tuft, and by other particularities. It differs also from the turkey-cock, because it has no fleshy gland hanging from the top of the beak, nor the bunch of bristly feathers at the breast, nor